

United States
Department of
Agriculture



Economic
Research
Service



Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program

Final report: Fiscal 2000 Activities

Mission: Research for a Healthy, Well-Nourished America



**Food Assistance &
Nutrition Research Program**



Mission: Research for a Healthy, Well-Nourished America

Program at a Glance

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) has responsibility for conducting studies and evaluations of the Nation's domestic food and nutrition assistance programs, including the Food Stamp Program (FSP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Child Nutrition Programs. ERS established the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program (FANRP) to carry out this responsibility. FANRP's research on these programs is designed to meet the critical information needs of the program managers, policy officials, the research community, and the public at large.

In developing research priorities, FANRP works closely with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), the agency responsible for administering the Department's food assistance and nutrition programs. FANRP also seeks input from a broad constituency of policy officials, researchers, practitioners, advocates, industry groups, and service providers. In conjunction with these activities, FANRP sponsors an annual round-table discussion to identify crucial research and information needs that would support food assistance and nutrition programs and to ensure the policy- and program-relevance of the annual research agenda. The program's perennial themes are diet and nutritional outcomes, food-program targeting and delivery, and program dynamics and administration.

FANRP projects utilize the capabilities of both external researchers and ERS staff. FANRP funds a portfolio of extramural projects through competitive contracts and through a tightly-run peer review process for awarding competitive grants and cooperative agreements. Peer reviewers include experts from academia, government, and the private sector. FANRP projects benefit from the involvement of ERS researchers and ERS's long and distinguished history of conducting rigorous, objective, and policy-relevant research. FANRP also sponsors a Small Grants Program to stimulate new research and to broaden the participation of social and nutrition science scholars in food assistance and nutrition policy issues. Research results are widely disseminated in accordance with FANRP principles. This report provides a brief summary and overview of FANRP.

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Research Mission and Goals

Food assistance and nutrition programs receive substantial funds and affect the daily lives of millions of Americans. In fiscal 1999, monthly participation in the FSP averaged 19.8 million Americans, at an annual cost of approximately \$18.9 billion. On average, WIC served 7.3 million women, infants, and children each month, at an annual cost of \$4.0 billion. On a typical school day, some 7.5 million children participated in the School Breakfast Program and 27.4 million children participated in the National School Lunch Program, which altogether cost \$7.3 billion in fiscal 1999. Given the importance of the food and nutrition assistance programs, FANRP research must be of the highest integrity. Accordingly, one of FANRP's founding principles is to provide scientifically rigorous studies and evaluations with verifiable and unbiased results.

FANRP is building on ERS's strong foundation of solid, objective, and timely research. ERS has a long, rich history of analyzing food assistance and nutrition programs and the economics of food choice, nutrition intake, and diet quality. An annotated bibliography, *Two Decades of Excellence*, compiles 20 years of ERS research accomplishments in the areas of food assistance, poverty and well-being, food choices, and nutrition. FANRP research benefits from that tradition, and from the expertise and contributions of ERS staff to current FANRP projects.

“A Healthier, Well-Nourished America” is our research mission. Our goal is a high-quality, multidisciplinary program that focuses on today's problems while addressing tomorrow's issues.

Program Principles

The program principles behind FANRP ensure the reliability and usefulness of the research

- Research that meets the needs of all stakeholders--program participants, USDA, Congress, and the public
- Integrated, comprehensive program that conducts research in the broader context of the current and future economic and social environments
- Broad array of public and private entities directly involved in the research, evaluation, and review efforts
- Integration of ERS staff expertise in the development, implementation, and accomplishment of research projects
- Scientifically rigorous studies and evaluations with verifiable and unbiased results
- Rigorous internal and external review of research results
- Public availability of data
- Wide distribution of research findings
- Development and maintenance of continuous data sets

Program Highlights, Fiscal 1998-2000

Congressionally Mandated Studies. FANRP has had responsibility for three mandated studies:

- WIC Cost-Containment Practices
- State Use of Funds To Increase Work Slots for Food Stamp Recipients
- Study of Meal Reimbursement Changes for Family Daycare Homes

Fiscal 2000 Priority Research Areas and New Projects. FANRP responds to immediate and long-term research needs through its annual identification of priority research areas. In fiscal 2000, FANRP's topics included (see table 1 for additional details):

- *Food Program Access and Client Well-Being.* This research area has projects that address reaching various underserved and hard-to-reach populations. One project will develop social marketing strategies for outreach to the elderly. Another project examines the food program participation of the working poor, a continuation and extension of the fiscal 1999 research area *Better Serving the Working Poor*. Finally, several projects examine various aspects of client well-being such as pregnancy outcomes, iron status, food insecurity, and housing and how these aspects are influenced by factors such as diet or food assistance program participation. A project on the emergency food assistance system includes a national survey of clients to assess their use of USDA programs.
- *Food Stamp Program Caseload Decline.* Projects in this area examine factors that contributed to the FSP caseload decline. FANRP initiated this research area in fiscal 1999 in response to the interest expressed by policymakers and the public in the recent large drop in food stamp participation.
- *Child Nutrition.* Research in this area includes four projects that examine administrative issues for three child nutrition programs: the National School Lunch Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and WIC. Other projects examine the roles of parental behavior in affecting either children's diet and nutrition or children's risk of obesity.
- *Nutrition and Health Outcomes and Dietary Behavior.* This research area includes projects that will identify eating patterns associated with diet quality and obesity; analyze diet, activity, and weight control practices of adolescents; explain nutrition-related risk factors for chronic disease; and update estimates of the effect of FSP benefits on households' food expenditure and nutrient availability. FANRP included this research area in the 2000 and 1999 agendas to reflect the emerging research priority on the role of behavioral influences on nutrition and health outcomes.
- *Research Outreach.* FANRP established a Small Grants Program with the participation of five administering institutions, each of which specializes in a different aspect of food assistance programs or population subgroups. Details on this major program are provided later in this section. Other projects in this research area are the Food and Nutrition Information Center and the Food and Nutrition Summer Institute.

- *Enhanced Food Assistance Research Data.* FANRP makes this area a research priority each year because data sustain the program's research on food assistance programs and the environment in which they operate. Projects in this research area include support for the Early Childhood Longitudinal Studies, the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, and the Food Security Supplement of the Current Population Survey, as well as a study identifying new and improved data resources for research on Federal food assistance and nutrition programs.

Research Projects, Fiscal 1998-99. FANRP developed a multifaceted research plan to increase understanding of the FSP. In this era of welfare reform, FANRP research examines interactions between the FSP and other welfare programs, as well as the roles of the macroeconomy and welfare reform in the FSP caseload decline. Other projects examine the effects on FSP clients of administrative changes in welfare offices, the well-being of households that leave the FSP, and the contrast between FSP participants and eligible nonparticipants. FANRP research addresses the two food stamp target groups most adversely affected by welfare reform: able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) and legal immigrants. To explore how the FSP might better serve the working poor, FANRP examines conditions of low-income working families and their program participation rates, and connections between the program's rules and administration and the circumstances of the working poor.

FANRP also conducts research on other USDA food assistance and nutrition programs. FANRP funded two research design studies. One evaluates the impact of the School Breakfast Program on learning and cognitive development. The other research design study pertains to the Summer Food Service Program's sponsor and site characteristics, and the comparative characteristics of participants and eligible nonparticipants. FANRP research investigates the long-term effects of assistance programs by funding a comprehensive assessment of existing findings on the dietary and health outcomes of food program participation.

FANRP collaborates with FNS to shed light on the policy-relevant issues of waste, fraud, and abuse in food assistance and nutrition programs. One study funded by FANRP updates the food stamp trafficking study conducted several years ago by FNS, while another study focuses on computer matching to detect fraud in the FSP. Another study evaluates available tools that States could use to prevent fraud and abuse by WIC clients and staff.

Behavioral choices, socioeconomic conditions, and governmental programs are important factors that influence nutrition and health. FANRP research examines the effects of such factors as breastfeeding consultations and education on breastfeeding choices and duration, infant health, and infant medical costs. The impact of breastfeeding on optimal growth rates is also being examined. Another study examines the effects of eating patterns, away-from-home eating, and food assistance and nutrition programs on the diets of low-income children and teens. FANRP research considers the roles of demographics, incomes, food prices, nutrition knowledge, and consumer information in influencing diet quality. FANRP work on dietary behavior includes the high costs of poor eating patterns, the contrast between food consumption and dietary recommendations, the impact on diet of food assistance programs, and the nutrient content of away-from-home foods. FANRP initiated a set of studies on childhood obesity--a national problem that has increased substantially--to examine the determinants of overweight and obesity among low-income children. Other research examines factors affecting the nutrient intake of the elderly, and constructs food cost indexes for low-income households and the general population.

In the early 1990's, researchers in government and academia collaborated in developing measures of the prevalence and severity of household food insecurity. FANRP continues to fund annual monitoring of food insecurity at the State level, and initiated new research projects in the area of food insecurity and hunger. These projects include examination of factors that influence food insecurity among female-headed households, and the impacts of food insecurity on the physical and emotional well-being of children in these households. Other research examines how food insecurity relates to program participation and obesity. FANRP also sponsored a conference to identify instruments that can facilitate community food security analysis at the local level. Another project will identify the service areas, characteristics, and operations of food banks, food pantries, and emergency kitchens and will obtain national estimates of the total number of recipients served and the quantities and types of foods.

FANRP funding has enhanced food assistance data collection in several nationwide surveys, including the Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, the Current Population Survey, and the Early Childhood Longitudinal Studies.

Small Grants Program. FANRP initiated a Small Grants Program in fiscal 1998 that pursues five themes through programs established at the following academic institutions and affiliated research institutes:

- Interactions between food assistance and other welfare programs, and linkages between the macroeconomy and food assistance. *The Joint Center for Poverty Research at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University*
- Effects of food assistance on well-being and food security. *The Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin.*
- The relationship between family poverty and food assistance programs among Native Americans. *The American Indian Studies Program at the University of Arizona.*
- The relationship between food assistance and rural people, families, and communities in the South. *The Southern Rural Development Center at Mississippi State and Alcorn State Universities.*
- The impact of food assistance programs on nutritional risk indicators (clinical, anthropometric, biochemical, and dietary), food purchasing practices, and food insecurity. *The Department of Nutrition at the University of California at Davis.*

Fiscal 2000 Program Themes and Funded Projects

The following is an abbreviated list of projects funded under FANRP in fiscal 2000 (see table 1 for more detailed information):

Food Program Access and Client Well-Being

- Longitudinal Analysis of the Earnings and Food Stamp Participation of the Working Poor
- Social Marketing Study to Increase Food Stamp Participation Among the Elderly

- Food Insecurity in the Second Generation
- Effects of Food Security on Pregnancy Outcomes
- Feasibility and Accuracy of Record Linkage to Estimate Multiple Program Participation
- Basic Needs, Tough Choices: The Impact of Housing Costs on Food Consumption
- Factors Associated with Iron Status Among WIC Infants in Rural West Virginia
- A Study of the U.S. Emergency Food Assistance System: Provider and Recipient Characteristics
- Community Food Security Assessment Tool Kit Field Test
- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2000-2004, Food Security Questions
- Labor Market Participation and Government Assistance Program Participation

Food Stamp Program Caseload Decline

- Program Access and Declining Food Stamp Program Participation
- Time Series Analysis of Food Stamp Program Caseloads
- The Impacts of Welfare Reform and the Macroeconomy on Food Stamp Caseloads and Expenditures
- Studies of Households Who Leave the Food Stamp Program: Iowa
- Supporting Families After Welfare Reform: Access to Medicaid, the Food Stamp Program (FSP), and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- Devolution and Urban Change

Child Nutrition

- Parental Time, Role Strains, Coping, and Children's Diet and Nutrition
- Parenting Practices and Obesity in Low-Income African-American Preschoolers
- Direct Certification and its Impact on Errors in the National School Lunch Program Study
- Research on Breast-fed Infants' Growth
- The Implementation of the National School Lunch Program Application and Verifications Pilot Projects
- CACFP Administrative Cost Reimbursement Study
- WIC Eligibility Expert Review Panel Study

Nutrition and Health Outcomes and Dietary Behavior

- Longitudinal Modeling of the Effects of Dietary Intakes on Body Composition and Risk Factors for Coronary Disease in the Women's Health Trial: Feasibility Study in Minority Populations
- Diet Patterns, Nutrients, and Development of Adolescent Obesity
- Eating Patterns, Diet Quality, and Obesity
- Conference on Interventions to Prevent Low Birth Weights
- Nutrition and Health Outcomes of USDA Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs
- Food Demands and Nutrient Availability of Low-Income Households
- An Evaluation of USDA's Healthy Eating Index
- Demand System Analysis for Households Segmented by Family Structure and Income

Research Outreach

- Small Grants Program:
 - ✓ Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University
Assessing Food Security and Related Welfare Reform Outcomes in Two Southern States
A Structural Model of the Relationships of Food Insufficiency to Disease Risk and Outcomes Among Adults from NHANES III
Food Stamp Dynamics Across Rural and Urban Landscapes in the Era of Welfare Reform
Measuring Food Insecurity and Hunger and Its Effect on Health Among Participants in the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) in Tennessee
 - ✓ The American Indian Studies Program (AISP), University of Arizona
The Impact of Food Assistance Programs on the Tohono O’odham Food System: An Analysis and Recommendations
The Effects of Food Assistance on Nutrition and Food Security Among the Northern Cheyenne
 - ✓ Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin
How Should We Measure Hunger?
Measuring the Impact of WIC Participation on the Initiation and Duration of Breastfeeding
Moderating the Effects of Food Insecurity on Child Outcomes: The Role of Food Assistance Programs
 - ✓ Joint Center for Poverty Research, University of Chicago and Northwestern University
The Influence of Food Stamp Program Participation on Adult Health: Estimates from the NLSY79
Interactions of Food Stamps and Housing Assistance
Economic Evaluation of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) in New York State
 - ✓ Department of Nutrition, University of California at Davis
The Effects of Food Stamp and WIC Programs on Food and Nutrient Intakes
Evaluation of the “Spend Less, Eat Well, Feel Better” Project
Validation of Food Security Instruments in Hispanic Households
- Food and Nutrition Information Center
- Food and Nutrition Summer Institute

Enhanced Food Assistance Research Data

- Data Development Initiatives for Research on Food Assistance and Nutrition Programs
- Panel Study of Income Dynamics
- Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey--Birth Cohort 2000 (ECLS-B)
- Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey--Kindergarten Cohort
- Current Population Survey (CPS) Food Security Supplement, September 2000
- National Food Price Data System
- Committee on National Statistics

Fiscal 1999 Program Themes and Funded Projects

The following is an abbreviated list of projects funded under FANRP in fiscal 1999 (see table 2 for more detailed information):

Food Stamp Program Caseload Decline

- Program Access and Declining Food Stamp Program Participation
- What Explains Changes in Food Stamp Program Caseloads?
- The Effects of Welfare Implementation on Food Stamp Caseloads
- Causes and Consequences of Food Insufficiency After Welfare Reform
- Devolution and Urban Change

Better Serving the Working Poor

- Improving Access to Food Stamps for Low-Income Working Households
- Restructuring Food Stamps to Help Working Families
- Program Integrity and Improved Service to the Working Poor Under Alternative Reporting Plans

Nutrition and Health Outcomes and Dietary Behavior

- Understanding Child Nutrition in the Year 2000: Dynamic Shifts and Their Determinants
- Obesity in Low-Income Mothers and Children
- Factors Affecting Childhood Obesity Among Low-Income Households
- The Determinants of Overweight and Obesity Among Low-Income Children
- Economic Benefits of Breastfeeding Promotion: A Controlled Clinical Trial
- Food Security and Health Outcomes in the California Health Interview Survey
- Evaluating the Impact of School Breakfast on Learning: Design and Feasibility

Food Security Measurement and Research

- Hunger: Its Risk and Impact in Poor, Female-Headed Households With Children
- Food Security Measurement Research
- Community Food Security Assessment Conference
- Community Food Security Assessment Tool Kit

Program Integrity and Effectiveness

- WIC Cost-Containment Study
- Identify and Evaluate Methods to Prevent Fraud and Abuse Among Staff and Participants in WIC
- Summer Feeding Integrity Study: A Design, Cost, and Feasibility Plan

Research Outreach

- Small Grants Program:
 - ✓ Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University
Food Stamp Program Caseload Declines: An Indirect Effect of Welfare Reform? A Comparison of Demographic Variables, Food/Nutrient Intakes, Level of Food Security, and Food/Nutrient Changes Among Food Stamp Recipients and Nonrecipients in South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia

Can Religious Congregations Satisfy Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Justice? An Assessment of Faith-Based Food Assistance Programs in Rural Mississippi
Food Stamp Utilization Patterns in Non-metro Counties in Texas: A Multilevel Analysis of the Micro- and Macro-Level Determinants of Caseload Dynamics
Nutrient Intakes of Food Insufficient and Food Sufficient Adults in the Southern Region of the United States and the Impact of Federal Food Assistance Programs

- ✓ The American Indian Studies Program (AISP), University of Arizona
Monitoring the Nutritional Status of Navajo Preschoolers
Does the Food Stamp Program Provide an Adequate Safety Net for American Indian Reservations? The Northern Cheyenne Case Study
The Impact of Food Assistance Programs on American Indian Reservations
- ✓ Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin
Development of a Face-Valid Food Security Monitoring Tool
Food Insecurity and Women's Health: Findings From a Longitudinal Survey of Welfare Recipients
- ✓ Joint Center for Poverty Research, University of Chicago and Northwestern University
Does Participation in Multiple Welfare Programs Improve Birth Outcomes?
The Impact of Welfare Reform on Food Stamp Take-up
Monitoring Changes in Food Security Among Single Mothers
- ✓ Department of Nutrition, University of California at Davis
Food Stamps, Ethnicity, and Nutrient Supplements: Association with Food Intake and Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs About Nutrient Supplement Use
Etiology of Iron Deficiency and Iron Deficiency Anemia Among Children Aged 12-36 Months
Do Food Stamps, Food Label Use, and Nutrition Knowledge Affect Dietary Quality Among Low-Income Adults? Results from the 1994-96 CSFII/DHKS
Questionable Food Acquisition Practices Used by Limited Resource Audiences
The Effect of Acculturation and Food Assistance Programs on Diet, Nutritional Status and Food Security Among the U.S. Hispanic Population

- Food and Nutrition Information Center: Research Information Dissemination
- Improving Measurement of Health and Nutrition Outcomes
- Rural Dimensions of Welfare Reform Conference
- Committee on National Statistics
- Food and Nutrition Summer Institute

Enhanced Food Assistance Research Data

- National Food Price Data System Enhancement
- Panel Study of Income Dynamics
- Early Childhood Longitudinal Study--Birth Cohort 2000 (ECLS--B)
- Measuring Food Security: April 1999 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement
- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

Fiscal 1998 Program Themes and Funded Projects

The following is an abbreviated list of projects funded under FANRP in fiscal 1998 (see table 3 for more detailed information).

Welfare Reform

- Family Child Care Homes Legislative Changes Study
- Report to Congress on State Use of Funds To Increase Work Slots for Food Stamp Recipients
- Report to Congress on Use of Food Stamps To Purchase Dietary Supplements
- Expanded Study of Welfare Reform on Immigrants
- Food Program Targeting and Delivery
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)-Leavers' Use of Food Stamps
- Studies of Households Who Leave the Food Stamp Program
- A Study of U.S. Emergency Food Assistance System: Provider and Recipient Characteristics
- Study of Re-engineering the Welfare System
- Research Linking Food Assistance Programs, Agriculture, Rural Areas, and the Economy
- Simplified Food Stamp Program Technical Assistance

Food Security

- Measuring Food Security: August 1998 Current Population Survey Supplement
- Early Childhood Longitudinal Study--Kindergarten Cohort (ECLS-K)
- Panel Study of Income Dynamics
- Research To Strengthen and Improve Measures of Food Security

Nutrition and Health

- Early Childhood Longitudinal Study--Birth Cohort 2000 (ECLS-B)
- Dietary and Nutrition Outcomes (Nutrition Risk Follow-up)
- Evaluation of Food Stamp Program Nutrition Education
- Research To Assess Links Between Diet Quality and Health
- Development and Evaluation of the Nutritional Anthropometric Assessment Software in WIC Clinics (Epi Info 2000/Nustat Module)
- Research on Breastfed Infants' Growth
- Nutritional Advantages of Including More Beef, Lamb, and Chevron Meats in the National School Lunch Program

Program Integrity and Effectiveness

- Assessment of Computer Matching in the Food Stamp Program
- The Evaluation of EBT Customer Service Waivers on Recipients
- Nutrition and Health Outcomes of USDA Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs
- WIC Supplemental Food Package Analysis

Research Outreach

- Small Grants Program:
 - ✓ Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University
 - Economic Downturns and Welfare Reform: An Exploratory County-Level Analysis*
 - The Impact of Food Stamp Reforms on Elderly in Mississippi*
 - Assessing the Benefits and Problems Associated with the Use of Electronic Benefits Transfer for Food Stamps in Macon County, Alabama*
 - Food Assistance in East Alabama: Issues of Access and Need*
 - Assessing Food Insecurity in Kentucky*
 - From Welfare Reliance to Wage Work: A Report on Food Security Among Louisiana's Rural Welfare Population*
 - ✓ The American Indian Studies Program (AISP), University of Arizona
 - Assessment of Food Concerns, Nutrition Knowledge, and Food Security of Oglala Lakota College Students on the Pine Ridge Reservation*
 - Dietary Choices and Weight Control Practices Among Cheyenne River Lakota Households*
 - The Impact of Welfare Reform on American Indian Reservations: The Northern Cheyenne Case Study*
 - Federal Food Programs, Traditional Foods, and the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Nations of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation*
 - The Availability and Variety of Healthful Food at Convenience Stores and Trading Posts on the Navajo Nation*
 - ✓ Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin
 - Independent Validation of the Core Food Security Module with Asian and Pacific Islanders*
 - The Evolution, Cost, and Operation of the Private Food Assistance Network*
 - Recency of Migration and Legal Status Effects on Food Expenditures and Child Well-Being*
 - Effects of Participation in the WIC Food Assistance Program: Evidence from NLSY Children*
 - ✓ The Joint Center for Poverty Research, University of Chicago and Northwestern University
 - Immigration and the Food Stamp Program*
 - State Budgetary Behavior and the Fiscal Interactions Between Food Stamps, AFDC, Medicaid, and SSI*
 - Does the Minimum Wage Affect AFDC and Food Stamp Participation?*
 - Patterns of Food Stamp and WIC Participation and Their Effects on the Health of Low-Income Children*
 - The Consequences of Food Insecurity for Child Well-Being: An Analysis of Children's School Achievement, Psychological Well-Being, and Health*

- ✓ Department of Nutrition, University of California at Davis
 - Impact of Food Insecurity and Food Assistance Program Participation on Nutritional Risk Among the Elderly*
 - Relationships Between Participation in Food Assistance Programs and Skeletal Health in Adult Women and Men*
 - Influence of Food Stamps on the Nutritional Status of Inner-City Preschoolers from Hartford, CT, Who Receive WIC Benefits*

- Food and Nutrition Information Center: Research Information Dissemination
- Economic Research Service’s Second National Food Security Research and Measurement Conference

Policy Research

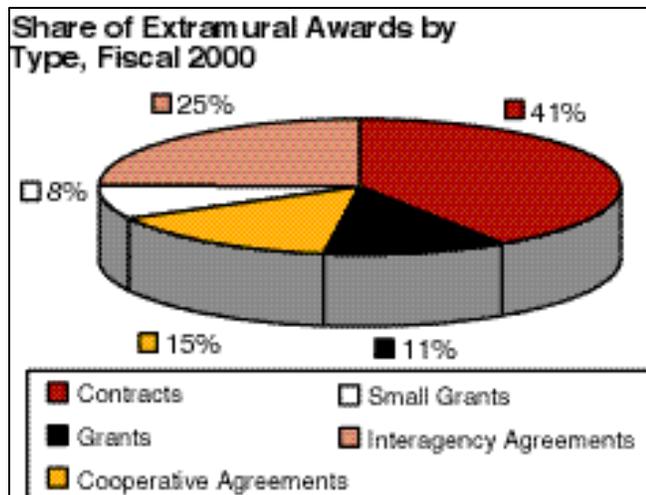
- WIC General Analysis Project
- Food Stamp Program (FSP) Microsimulation and Related Analysis
- Child Nutrition Analysis Projects
- The Extent of Trafficking in the Food Stamp Program After Welfare Reform

Enhanced Data Development

- Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals (CSFII)
- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES IV)
- National Food Price and Sales Information System

Competitively Funded Extramural Research Program, Fiscal 2000

To meet the programmatic needs of the Department and to promote research from a broad arena, FANRP uses a variety of funding mechanisms. Contracts are used when a very specific product is required, such as compliance with a Congressional mandate. When the intent is to stimulate new and innovative research or to undertake projects conducted jointly with ERS researchers, cooperative agreements and grants are used. The extramural research program is publicly announced and competitively awarded through the use of peer review panels.



Three contracts and four contract options were awarded in fiscal 2000 in the areas of administrative costs of sponsors in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, prevalence of direct certification in the National School Lunch Program and its effect on error rates, client access to the Food Stamp Program, use of Federal food assistance by users of the emergency food assistance system, and long-term strategies for enhancing food assistance research data. Funding for contracts totaled \$4.15 million.

The Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program is announced broadly, with program announcements mailed out to universities, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, and State and local governments. The announcement was posted on the Internet through the ERS website. Funding for seven cooperative agreements totaled \$1.41 million in fiscal 2000. In addition, a total of \$0.92 million funded five grants. The acceptance rate for proposals of cooperative agreements and grants was roughly one in eight, or in dollars terms roughly \$1 in \$12. Cooperative agreements and grants were awarded to conduct research on such topics as the earnings and food stamp participation of the working poor, parental behavior and children's diets and nutrition, linking administrative records to estimate multiple program participation, and the effects of food security on pregnancy outcomes.

In addition, five small Cooperative Research Agreements and three amendments totaling \$337,000 were awarded to fill special research needs of the ongoing internal research program. These projects included studies on nutrient availability elasticities, food stamp caseload analysis with cointegration models, analysis of welfare reform and macroeconomic effects on food stamp caseload declines, analysis of the USDA Healthy Eating Index, analysis of low-wage earners, estimation of demand system parameters for low-income households, research on optimal growth rates for breastfed infants, and a study of households who leave the Food Stamp Program.

The Small Grants Program funds grant competitions at five diverse institutions with each focusing on a particular facet of food assistance, such as diet and health outcomes, relationships to poverty and well-being, rural issues, and special at-risk population groups. Funding for small grants totaled \$820,000 in fiscal 2000.

Interagency agreements are used to enhance food assistance data development through cost-sharing partnerships and to fund cooperative interagency research on program interactions and policy issues. These interagency projects include funding for additional data collection in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), and the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study—Birth Cohort, as well as the food security module of the Current Population Survey (CPS), and the Devolution and Urban Change project. Funding for interagency agreements totaled \$2.52 million in fiscal 2000.

FANRP, Today and Tomorrow

FANRP addresses the research needs of the Nation's food assistance and nutrition programs. Its research analyzes the benefits of improved diets and food choices, the factors that influence diet and nutrition, and the outcomes of policies and programs aimed at improving the nutrition, well-being, and food security of Americans. These programs include the Food Stamp Program, WIC, and Child Nutrition Programs.

FANRP will continue to conduct and disseminate policy-relevant and programmatic research that informs decisionmakers and the public. FANRP will continue to integrate intramural research with the extramural program, enhancing its capacity to address policy and research needs of USDA's food assistance and nutrition programs in a timely, objective, and cost-effective manner. To identify and prioritize research needs and policy issues, FANRP will continue to seek input from key constituencies such as policy officials, program and research leaders, and the Food and Nutrition Service.

Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program Publications, Fiscal 2000

The following is a list of publications completed by the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program during fiscal 2000. The vehicle for most of these publications is the Food and Nutrition Research Report (FANRR) series. This newly established Departmental series showcases the outcomes of FANRP research, whether the findings are obtained by ERS staff, by non-ERS authors under a FANRP contract or grant, or by non-ERS authors working jointly with ERS authors.

Wilde, P.E., McNamara, P.E., and Ranney, C.K. The Effect on Dietary Quality of Participation in the Food Stamp and WIC Programs, FANRR-9. USDA, ERS. September 2000.

Andrews, M.A., Nord, M., Bickel, G., and Carlson, S. Household Food Security in the United States, 1999, FANRR-8. USDA, ERS. Fall 2000.

Gundersen, C., YaZez, M., Valdez, C., and Kuhn, B. A Comparison of Food Assistance Programs in Mexico and the United States, FANRR-6. USDA, ERS. July 2000.

Wilde, P., Cook, P., Gundersen, C., Nord, M., and Tiehen, L. The Decline in Food Stamp Program Participation in the 1990's, FANRR-7. USDA, ERS. June 2000.

“Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program, Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program: Description and Application Process Fiscal 2000,” FANRP 1621. USDA, ERS. March 2000.

Oliveira, V., and Gundersen, C. WIC and the Nutrient Intake of Children, FANRR-5. USDA, ERS. March 2000.

Price, C.C., and Harris, J.M. Increasing Food Recovery From Farmers' Markets: A Preliminary Analysis, FANRR-4. USDA, ERS. January 2000.

“Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program, Final Report: Fiscal 1999 Activities,” USDA, ERS. November 1999.

Hamilton, W.L., Stickney, E., and Crepinsek, M.K. Family Child Care Homes and the CACFP: Participation After Reimbursement Tiering (An Interim Report of the Family Child Care Homes Legislative Changes Study), FANRR-3. USDA, ERS. October 1999.

Blaylock, J.R., Variyam, J.N., and Lin, B.H. Maternal Nutrition Knowledge and Children's Diet Quality and Nutrient Intakes, FANRR-1. USDA, ERS. October 1999.

Nord, M., Jemison, K., and Bickel, G. Prevalence of Food Insecurity and Hunger, by State, 1996-98, FANRR-2. USDA, ERS. September 1999.

Previous Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program Publications

The following is a list of publications completed by the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program from fiscal 1998, its first year of mandated responsibility, to fiscal 1999. Please visit www.ers.usda.gov to identify earlier ERS publications on the economics of food choices, nutrient intake, and diet quality.

Aldrich, L. Consumer Use of Information: Implications for Food Policy, AHR-715. USDA, ERS. June 1999.

Weimer, J.P. "Breastfeeding: Health and Economic Issues," FoodReview, Vol. 22, Issue 2, USDA, ERS. May-August 1999.

Frazão, E., ed. America's Eating Habits: Changes and Consequences, AIB-750. USDA, ERS. May 1999.

Contents:

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Table 1
FANRP Extramural Research Studies: Fiscal 2000

Research Projects/Award	Objective	Estimated Cost
<i>Food Program Access and Client Well-Being</i>		
Longitudinal Analysis of the Earnings and Food Stamp Participation of the Working Poor The Lewin Group	To examine how the long-term earnings patterns of the working poor who are eligible for food stamps are related to their participation in the Food Stamp Program. The project will conduct an extensive analysis of linked files from the 1992-96 Survey of Income and Program Participation and Social Security Administration earnings histories.	\$169,489
Social Marketing Study to Increase Food Stamp Participation Among the Elderly Health Systems Research	To utilize social marketing research methods for the development of a food stamp outreach program tailored to the elderly. After conducting 15 focus groups drawn from three ethnic groups, the project will construct an outreach marketing plan and a set of outreach materials.	\$159,927
Food Insecurity in the Second Generation National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc.	To examine food insecurity in the immigrant population and the effects of socioeconomic characteristics, networks in ethnic enclaves, Food Stamp Program participation, and welfare reform on differences in food insecurity between immigrant and other households.	\$150,000
Effects of Food Security on Pregnancy Outcomes Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	To add a food security research component to the large, ongoing Epidemiology of Exertion, Stress and Preterm Delivery Study (PIN-III). The project will examine the relationships between food insecurity and maternal nutritional indicators, poor birth outcomes, and social and environmental factors.	\$250,000
Feasibility and Accuracy of Record Linkage to Estimate Multiple Program Participation Abt Associates	To identify the feasibility of linking the administrative data files from food stamps, WIC, and child nutrition programs to facilitate analysis of multiple program participation and to improve program operations in such areas as one-stop shopping, adjunctive eligibility determination, program integrity, and administrative and client burden.	\$354,927
Basic Needs, Tough Choices: The Impact of Housing Costs on Food Consumption Johns Hopkins University	To examine how housing affordability in local markets affects food expenditures and food security for low-income households. Food Stamp Program regulations adjust benefits for excess housing costs, but low-income households face tradeoffs between housing, which accounts for the largest share of their budgets, and food consumption.	\$100,318

Fiscal 2000		
Research Projects/Awards	Objective	Estimated Cost
Factors Associated with Iron Status Among WIC Infants in Rural West Virginia University of West Virginia	To collect primary data on WIC infants and toddlers, ages 6 to 24 months, in West Virginia counties that are known to have high rates of iron-deficiency anemia, to identify dietary factors that are associated with poor iron status, and to provide data that can be used to design and implement effective nutrition education and intervention programs.	\$135,004
A Study of the U.S. Emergency Food Assistance System: Provider and Recipient Characteristics Mathematica Policy Research	To identify the characteristics, operating structure, and service areas of food banks, food pantries, and emergency kitchens and to provide national estimates of the total number of recipients served and the total quantity and type of food by source. A modification to the existing contract was made to increase the coverage of the provider survey to include agencies that distribute TEFAP foods as a secondary function.	\$99,208
A Study of the U.S. Emergency Food Assistance System: Provider and Recipient Characteristics Mathematica Policy Research	To identify the characteristics, operating structure, and service areas of food banks, food pantries, and emergency kitchens and to provide national estimates of the total number of recipients served and the total quantity and type of food by source. An option to the contract was exercised to survey clients on their characteristics, participation in other food assistance programs, and reasons for obtaining emergency food instead of or in addition to obtaining food through USDA programs.	\$1,577,357
Community Food Security Assessment Tool Kit Field Test Agricultural Research Service, USDA	To develop a set of standardized instruments for the measurement and assessment of community food security at the local level. This project provides support to ARS's Delta NIRI for a field test of a community food security assessment tool kit in Drew County, Arkansas.	\$35,000
Labor Market Participation and Government Assistance Program Participation The George Washington University	To provide a comprehensive descriptive analysis on labor force participation of households with income under the food stamp threshold and on the jobs that food stamp recipients are likely to enter. The project will bring together data on the characteristics of low-skilled workers and low-wage jobs.	\$12,100
<i>Food Stamp Program Caseload Decline</i>		
Program Access and Declining Food Stamp Program Participation Abt Associates	To examine how households decide to participate in the Food Stamp Program. An option to an existing contract was exercised to examine the relative influence of local office practices, stigma, and other factors in the decision of eligible households that choose not to apply for or participate in the Food Stamp Program.	\$623,794
Time Series Analysis of Food Stamp Program Caseloads Nova Scotia Agricultural College	To evaluate the time series properties of Food Stamp Program caseloads from the late 1970's to 1999. This study focuses on testing for structural shifts over this time period, by estimating a cointegrated long-run relationship and error correction specification within the framework of structural change.	\$20,000

Fiscal 2000		
Research Projects/Awards	Objective	Estimated Cost
The Impacts of Welfare Reform and the Macroeconomy on Food Stamp Caseloads and Expenditures University of Oregon	To examine the effects on food stamp caseloads and expenditures of local labor market conditions and differences in State welfare policies. An amendment to this project examines the effects of macroeconomic conditions and welfare reform on State poverty rates and the links between food stamp caseloads and poverty rates.	\$15,000
Studies of Households Who Leave the Food Stamp Program: Iowa Iowa State University	To determine the status of households and individuals who leave the Food Stamp Program, focusing on individuals' ability to obtain employment, the support provided by their earnings and other income sources, and support provided by public and/or private programs. An amendment was made to examine statistical design issues.	\$100,000
Supporting Families After Welfare Reform: Access to Medicaid, the Food Stamp Program (FSP), and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Department of Health and Human Services	To help States and large counties solve problems in their eligibility processes that make it difficult for low-income families to access and retain program benefits. An interagency transfer was made to the Administration for Children and Families (HHS) to provide support for a Food Stamp Program component in a study that addresses Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).	\$203,591
Devolution and Urban Change Department of Health and Human Services	To provide support for continued incorporation of a Food Stamp Program component into a major analysis by Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation of the effects of welfare reform on the economic and social well-being of low-income families in four urban areas.	\$250,000
Child Nutrition		
Parental Time, Role Strains, Coping, and Children's Diet and Nutrition Texas A&M University	To study the effects of time use, time constraints, work demands, role strains, and coping mechanisms on children's diets and obesity risk. A survey of 300 households, with single parents oversampled, will provide detailed information for the analysis.	\$251,707
Parenting Practices and Obesity in Low-Income African-American Preschoolers University of Chicago and Children's Hospital Medical Center (Cincinnati)	To refine and administer the Preschooler Feeding Questionnaire (PFQ), which is designed to identify specific parenting practices associated with preschool children becoming overweight. The target population of the refined PFQ is low-income African-American mothers, whose 2- to 5-year-old children are at high risk for becoming overweight.	\$260,000
Direct Certification and its Impact on Errors in the National School Lunch Program Mathematica Policy Research	To assess the prevalence of direct certification in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and its effects on certification, participation, and verification error rates. A nationally representative sample of School Food Authorities will be surveyed to gather information from NSLP applications for free and reduced-price meals and from State and local welfare offices.	\$779,364

Fiscal 2000		
Research Projects/Awards	Objective	Estimated Cost
Research on Breast-fed Infants' Growth World Health Organization and University of California—Davis	To conduct research on optimal growth rates for breast-fed infants that will help to determine when, and if, breastfeeding should be supplemented with formula to support weight gain. The grant was amended to include a cross-sectional component to measure children ages 18-71 months for reliable estimates of growth through the end of the 5 th year of life.	\$124,997
The Implementation of the National School Lunch Program Application and Verifications Pilot Projects Food and Nutrition Service, USDA	To provide support for the initial phase of setup and evaluation for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) pilot demonstration sites for the Food and Nutrition Service's study of alternative NSLP application and verification procedures.	\$35,000
CACFP Administrative Cost Reimbursement Study Resource Network International	To examine USDA's reimbursement of administrative costs incurred by sponsors of family child care homes that participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The project will examine the sponsors' budgets and reimbursements, investigate benchmarks for wages and other costs, and review alternative reimbursement systems.	\$554,909
WIC Eligibility Expert Review Panel Study Food and Nutrition Service, USDA	To provide support for a National Academy of Sciences committee to review methods and procedures for estimating annually the number of people eligible for the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and to identify ways to improve WIC eligibility and participation estimates.	\$250,000
<i>Nutrition and Health Outcomes and Dietary Behavior</i>		
Longitudinal Modeling of the Effects of Dietary Intakes on Body Composition and Risk Factors for Coronary Disease in the Women's Health Trial: Feasibility Study in Minority Populations University of Houston	To develop dynamic models to explain selected nutrition-related risk factors for chronic disease among participants in a 12-month randomized trial of a low-fat diet. Results will provide insights into factors influencing success in changing dietary behavior, and the effects of dietary intakes on body composition and other physiological measures of nutritional status.	\$121,000
Diet Patterns, Nutrients and Development of Adolescent Obesity Channing Laboratory, Brigham and Women's Hospital	To analyze 1996-2000 data from a longitudinal survey containing annual assessments of diet, activity, weight control practices, and height and weight of adolescents. The project will describe dietary patterns, diet quality, and obesity development.	\$150,000
Eating Patterns, Diet Quality, and Obesity Baylor College of Medicine	To identify eating patterns associated with diet quality and obesity in children and young adults from a biracial population, using the Bogalusa Heart Study database. The project will also identify strategies for changing eating patterns and improving diet quality.	\$220,000

Fiscal 2000		
Research Projects/Awards	Objective	Estimated Cost
Conference on Interventions to Prevent Low Birth Weights Agricultural Research Service, USDA	To provide support for an international research conference on interventions to prevent low birth weights. Research on USDA's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has demonstrated its importance and cost effectiveness in successfully reducing low birth weight outcomes.	\$30,000
Nutrition and Health Outcomes of USDA Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs Abt Associates	To improve and expand understanding of the effects of USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs. An option was exercised to analyze NHANES III data to investigate a variety of nutrition- and health-related measures for several groups of people: Food Stamp Program participants and nonparticipants; WIC participants and nonparticipants; school-aged children; and elderly persons.	\$209,090
Food Demands and Nutrient Availability of Low-Income Households University of Nevada-Reno	To estimate the effect of Food Stamp Program (FSP) benefits on households' food expenditures and nutrient availability using 1997-98 data from the National Food Stamp Program Survey. Studies that documented positive effects of food stamp benefits on food expenditure and nutrient availability have become dated.	\$10,000
An Evaluation of the USDA's Healthy Eating Index Syracuse University	To examine whether the predictive performance of the Healthy Eating Index (HEI) could be improved by modifying its construction. Two recent studies have shown that the HEI does moderately well in predicting cardiovascular disease but not cancer or overall mortality.	\$35,000
Demand System Analysis for Households Segmented by Family Structure and Income Texas A&M University	To estimate theoretically consistent price and income elasticities for food and nonfood commodities for households distinguished by income and family structure. The resulting elasticities will be incorporated into ERS's economy-wide modeling of welfare reform.	\$20,000
Research Outreach		

Small Grants Program	<p>To stimulate new and innovative research on food assistance programs and to broaden the participation of social science scholars in food assistance research. Five academic institutions and affiliated research institutes partnered with ERS in 1998 to administer the Small Grants Program. Each institution focuses on a particular facet of food assistance, such as diet and health outcomes, relationships to poverty and well-being, rural issues, and special at-risk population groups. The five institutions and areas of focus are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Joint Center for Poverty Research, University of Chicago and Northwestern University</u> funded proposals on interactions between food assistance and other welfare programs, and linkages between the macroeconomy and food assistance. (\$169,999) 	\$819,999
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Fiscal 2000

Research Projects/Awards Objective Estimated Cost

- The Southern Rural Development Center at Mississippi State University supports food assistance research on rural people, families, and communities in the South. The Center also initiated a dialogue among scholars through the establishment of a Rural South Food Assistance Research Task Force, with the purpose of further articulating research priorities on food-assistance-related issues. (\$200,000)
- The University of Arizona, American Indian Studies Program is working with scholars at tribal colleges and elsewhere to support research addressing the unique issues and problems of Native Americans with respect to food assistance. (\$150,000)
- The University of California at Davis, Department of Nutrition has awarded small grants for research on the impact of food assistance programs on nutritional risk indicators (anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, and dietary), food purchasing practices, and food insecurity. This program seeks to encourage examinations of multiple indicators of nutrition impact, and interdisciplinary approaches integrating epidemiology, economics, or anthropology with nutrition. (\$150,000)
- The Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin awarded research grants that address the effects of food assistance on individual and family well-being and food security. (\$150,000)

**Food and Nutrition Summer Institute
Agricultural Research Service, USDA**

To help sponsor the Food and Nutrition Summer Institute, which has the objectives of positioning the nutrition programs of historically black colleges and universities to meet research and education challenges, and of creating a stronger voice and action for nutrition education, research, and policy within the African-American community.

\$20,000

**Food and Nutrition Information Center
National Agricultural Library**

To provide support to the National Agricultural Library (NAL) in systematically storing and disseminating information on USDA's food assistance programs, nutrition education, and related nutrition issues; and hosting a website and list server.

\$202,000

Enhanced Food Assistance Research Data

**Data Development Initiatives for Research on Food Assistance and Nutrition Programs
Urban Institute, Health Systems Research, and Research Triangle Institute, Inc.**

To explore possibilities for investments in new and improved data resources for research on Federal food assistance and nutrition programs. The project will identify and evaluate 10 feasible initiatives for investments in data resources, and then develop an implementation plan and cost estimates for three selected initiatives.

\$305,933

**Panel Study of Income Dynamics
National Science Foundation**

To sustain and improve the collection of food assistance data in the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID). The PSID collects longitudinal data on family composition, income, use of public assistance, food security, and factors associated with family self-sufficiency.

\$200,000

Fiscal 2000		
Research Projects/Awards	Objective	Estimated Cost
Early Childhood Longitudinal Study--Birth Cohort 2000 (ECLS-B) Department of Education	To include USDA's food security module and other items in the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey—Birth Cohort, sponsored by the National Center for Educational Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. The survey was pre-tested for 9-month-old children, gathering infant height and weight data as well as responses to questions on food security, infant feeding practices, and participation in food assistance programs.	\$400,000
Early Childhood Longitudinal Study--Kindergarten Cohort (ECLS-K) Department of Education	To include USDA's food security module and other items in the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey-Kindergarten Cohort (ECLS-K), sponsored by the National Center for Educational Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. The project will provide descriptive data on children's status at entry into school, children's transition into school, participation in the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs, and children's progress through fifth grade--including data that allow for the examination of the relationship between food security/hunger, cognitive development, and school performance.	\$250,000
Current Population Survey (CPS) Food Security Supplement, September 2000 U.S. Bureau of the Census	To develop annual estimates of the prevalence of food security in the United States and to provide data for analysis of the determinants of and changes in the level of food security.	\$420,000
National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2000-2004, Food Security Questions Department of Health and Human Services	To support inclusion of a battery of food security questions in individual interviews of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.	\$116,388
National Food Price Data System Food and Drug Administration	To provide support for the most recent national data on food prices, quantities, comparable volumes, dollar sales, and promotion information at the product group, class, brand, and item levels and information on promotional treatments.	\$82,000
Committee on National Statistics National Science Foundation	To provide funding for the Committee on National Statistics for such activities as a review of the 2000 Census, poverty estimates for small areas, measuring the effects of social welfare reform, cost-of-living indexes, performance measures for public health programs, the use of statistical formulas in legislation for fund allocation, confidentiality and data access, and other issues.	\$26,200

Table 2
FANRP Extramural Research Studies: Fiscal 1999

Research Projects/Award	Objective	Estimated Cost
<i>Food Stamp Program Caseload Decline</i>		
Program Access and Declining Food Stamp Program Participation Abt Associates	To examine how the decisions by clients to participate in the Food Stamp Program have been affected by changes, such as customer service at local welfare office and increases in stigma associated with welfare reform. Population groups of special interest include legal immigrants, ABAWDs, child-only cases, and households exiting TANF.	\$1,889,035
What Explains Changes in the Food Stamp Program Caseloads? Abt Associates	To estimate the impacts on Food Stamp Program caseloads of economic trends, demographic changes and welfare reform from the late 1970's to 1998. The study will use variation across time and States to disentangle the effects.	\$96,807
The Effects of Welfare Implementation on Food Stamp Caseloads Rockefeller Institute of Government	To examine local-level institutional changes in program delivery that may have contributed to caseload decline for the Food Stamp Program. The study focuses on such changes as the growing institutional separation between food stamp and cash welfare administrative systems and the increasing complexity of the programs.	\$200,079
Causes and Consequences of Food Insufficiency After Welfare Reform University of Michigan	To examine the experiences of single mothers and their children in the era since welfare reform. The study focuses on such outcomes as food insufficiency and maternal and child health, and relates them to maternal work histories and welfare and food stamp participation.	\$200,354
Devolution and Urban Change Department of Health and Human Services	To incorporate a Food Stamp Program (FSP) component into a major analysis by Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation of the effects of welfare reform on the economic and social well-being of low-income families in four urban areas. The study will examine issues such as local office implementation of national FSP policies, how recipients fare, whether local institutions are affected by changes in welfare policies, and how changes are evidenced by indicators of well-being.	\$300,000

Fiscal 1999

Research Projects/Award	Objective	Estimated Cost
<i>Better Serving the Working Poor</i>		
Improving Access to Food Stamps for Low-Income Working Households Manpower Demonstration Research Corp.	To examine food stamp use among low-income working households, a group for which the number of eligible households substantially exceeds the number of participating households. Data will involve longitudinal information on food stamp benefits, food sufficiency, material hardship, and child well-being.	\$178,433
Restructuring Food Stamps To Help Working Families Urban Institute	Building on various analyses related to the New Federalism Project, this study will explore and propose options for restructuring the Food Stamp Program to supplement the incomes of working, low-income families.	\$50,000
Program Integrity and Improved Service to the Working Poor Under Alternative Reporting Plans The SPHERE Institute	To compare retrospective monthly earnings reporting and prospective quarterly reporting to determine which best serves the working poor, yields administrative cost-savings, and preserves program integrity.	\$348,428
<i>Nutrition and Health Outcomes and Dietary Behavior</i>		
Understanding Child Nutrition in the Year 2000: Dynamic Shifts and Their Determinants University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	To examine factors that affect the quality of children's diets, including snacking behaviors, away-from-home food intake behavior, the role of maternal labor force participation, and the influence of food and nutrition assistance programs.	\$200,000
Obesity in Low-Income Mothers and Children Children's Hospital Medical Center (Cincinnati)	Using links between WIC data and birth certificate data on approximately 35,000 mother-child pairs, the study will examine factors that may influence the probability that by age 4 a WIC child with an obese mother will also be obese.	\$350,000
Factors Affecting Child Obesity Among Low-Income Households University of Georgia	Using data from USDA's 1994-96 Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals (CSFII) and a statistical technique to correct for selectivity bias, the study is designed to ascertain if children from low-income households that participated in food assistance programs are at a greater risk of becoming obese than are their counterparts.	\$99,828

Fiscal 1999		
Research Projects/Awards	Objective	Estimated Cost
The Determinants of Overweight and Obesity Among Low-Income Children Boston University, Boston Medical Center	To examine the relationships between food insufficiency and obesity among low-income children. Using data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III), the study will examine the impact of household food insufficiency status and other factors on the likelihood of being overweight for children whose families receive WIC or food stamps compared with children in nonrecipient households.	\$124,999
Economic Benefits of a Breastfeeding Promotion: A Controlled Clinical Trial Albert Einstein College of Medicine	To evaluate the benefits of a breastfeeding promotion intervention campaign among low-income women. A randomized controlled clinical trial will examine the effects on breastfeeding prevalence and duration, infant health, and infant medical costs of providing the mother with personalized breastfeeding counseling.	\$399,700
Food Security and Health Outcomes in the California Health Interview Survey University of California—Los Angeles School of Public Health	To adapt the USDA Food Security Core Module for use with different ethnic populations participating in the California Health Interview Survey. The survey investigates the relationship of household-level food insecurity and hunger to self-reported health status, health services utilization, dietary quality, and preventative health behaviors.	\$100,000
Evaluating the Impact of School Breakfast on Learning: Design and Feasibility Mathematica Policy Research	To develop and evaluate alternative study designs that would permit future evaluation of the impact of school breakfast on learning and cognitive development. The research will identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative designs and address such critical issues as controlling for confounding factors.	\$289,311
<i>Food Security</i>		
Hunger: Its Risk and Impact in Poor Female-Headed Households With Children University of Massachusetts Medical School	To identify factors that predispose poor households to, or protect them from, food insecurity and hunger. The study will examine the impact of food insecurity/hunger on a variety of measures, such as food insecurity, physical and emotional health of mother and children, and children's academic achievement.	\$250,000
Analysis of Data from the 1998 and 1999 Food Security Supplements to the Current Population Survey Food Security Measurement Research IQ Solutions	To analyze for the 1995-99 period the extent of food insecurity and hunger in the United States, using data collected in the Food Security Supplements to the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted by the Census Bureau.	\$236,859

Fiscal 1999

Research Projects/Award	Objective	Estimated Cost
Community Food Security Assessment Conference USDA Graduate School	To contribute to the Department's Community Food Security Initiative by supporting the development of a standardized community assessment toolkit and sponsoring a conference that gathered an interdisciplinary group of academics and community practitioners from across the country to help guide the development and implementation of the assessment toolkit.	\$127,032
Community Food Security Assessment Tool Kit IQ Solutions	To develop a set of standardized instruments for the measurement and assessment of community food security. The menu of instruments will be accompanied by implementation descriptions that will facilitate data collection and analysis at the local level.	\$149,570

Program Integrity and Effectiveness

WIC Cost Containment Study (Congressionally mandated) Abt Associates	Report to Congress on the effects of cost containment practices by States of limiting brand-named products in the WIC food package and promoting more stringent selection of vendors. The study will assess the effects of such practices on program participation, access to and availability of prescribed foods, voucher redemption rates, actual food selections by participants, participants on special diets or with specific food allergies, participant use of and satisfaction with prescribed foods, achievement of positive health outcomes, and program costs.	\$1,099,293
WIC Program Integrity Research ATMS/Abt Associates	To identify and evaluate the best tools for detecting fraud and abuse among WIC staff or participants. The study will review existing tools and data systems presently in use by some States for detecting fraud and abuse among WIC vendors. The project was identified by the National Association of WIC Directors as a high research priority.	\$225,550
Summer Feeding Integrity Study: A Design, Cost, and Feasibility Plan Mathematica Policy Research	To obtain a design, cost, and evaluation study that considers options for improving estimates of sponsor, site, and participant characteristics in the Summer Food Service Program. The study will consider alternative sampling frames, questionnaire design, modes for collecting information, time frames for data collection, and implications for implementation costs.	\$412,246

Fiscal 1999

Research Projects/Award

Objective

Estimated Cost

Research Outreach

Small Grant Program

To stimulate new and innovative research on food assistance programs and to broaden the participation of social science scholars in food assistance research. Five academic institutions and affiliated research institutes partnered with ERS in 1998 to administer the Small Grants Program. Each institution focuses on a particular facet of food assistance, such as diet and health outcomes, relationships to poverty and well-being, rural issues, and special at-risk population groups. The five institutions and areas of focus are

\$750,000

- The Joint Center for Poverty Research, University of Chicago and Northwestern University funded proposals on interactions between food assistance and other welfare programs, and linkages between the macroeconomy and food assistance. (\$150,000)
- The Southern Rural Development Center at Mississippi State University supports food assistance research on rural people, families, and communities in the South. The Center also initiated a dialogue among scholars through the establishment of a Rural South Food Assistance Research Task Force, with the purpose of further articulating research priorities on food-assistance-related issues. (\$150,000)
- The University of Arizona, American Indian Studies Program is working with scholars at tribal colleges and elsewhere to support research addressing the unique issues and problems of Native Americans with respect to food assistance. (\$150,000)
- The University of California at Davis, Department of Nutrition has awarded small grants for research on the impact of food assistance programs on nutritional risk indicators (anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, and dietary), food purchasing practices, and food insecurity. This program seeks to encourage examinations of multiple indicators of nutrition impact, and interdisciplinary approaches integrating epidemiology, economics, or anthropology with nutrition. (\$150,000)
- The Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin awarded research grants that address the effects of food assistance on individual and family well-being and food security. (\$150,000)

**Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC)
National Agricultural Library**

To provide support to the National Agricultural Library (NAL) in systematically storing and disseminating information on USDA's food assistance programs, nutrition education, and related nutrition issues; and hosting a website and list server.

\$200,000

Fiscal 1999		
Research Projects/Award	Objective	Estimated Cost
Interpretation and Use of Dietary Reference Intakes Department of Health and Human Services	To promote understanding of the proper methods for assessing health- and nutrition-related outcomes for food assistance programs. ERS will support NAS research on how the newly developed Dietary Intake References should be incorporated into program design and evaluations.	\$100,000
Rural Dimensions of Welfare Reform Conference Joint Center for Poverty Research, University of Chicago and Northwestern University	To assemble experts who will present research papers on poverty, welfare and food assistance that have a rural or rural/urban comparative dimension, reflecting the fact that most poor and welfare-recipient families live outside of central cities and that substantial minorities live outside of metropolitan areas altogether.	\$100,000
Committee on National Statistics National Science Foundation	To provide funding for the Committee on National Statistics for such activities as a review of the 2000 Census, poverty estimates for small areas, measuring the effects of social welfare reform, cost-of-living indexes, performance measures for public health programs, the use of statistical formulas in legislation for fund allocation, confidentiality and data access, and other issues.	\$26,200
Food and Nutrition Summer Institute Agricultural Research Service	To help sponsor the Food and Nutrition Summer Institute, which has the objectives of positioning the nutrition programs of historically black colleges and universities to meet research and education challenges, and of creating a stronger voice and action for nutrition education, research, and policy within the African-American community.	\$20,000
<i>Enhanced Food Assistance Research Data</i>		
National Food Price Data System Enhancement Food and Drug Administration	To expand a national database of food prices, quantities, and comparable volumes and dollars sales at the product group, class, brand, and item levels to include information on which items received various types of local promotional treatments.	\$6,000
Panel Study of Income Dynamics National Science Foundation	To sustain and improve the collection of food assistance data in the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID). The PSID collects longitudinal data on family composition, income, use of public assistance, food security, and factors associated with family self-sufficiency.	\$104,500
Early Childhood Longitudinal Study--Birth Cohort 2000 (ECLS-B) Department of Education	To include USDA's food security module and other items in the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey—Birth Cohort, sponsored by the National Center for Educational Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. The survey was pre-tested for nine-month-old children, gathering infant height and weight data as well as responses to questions on food security, infant feeding practices, and participation in food assistance programs.	\$150,000

Fiscal 1999		
Research Projects/Award	Objective	Estimated Cost
Measuring Food Security: April 1999 Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey U.S. Bureau of the Census	To sustain annual collection of data on the prevalence of food security in the United States and to provide data for analysis of the determinants of, and changes in, the level of food security.	\$440,000
National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey Department of Health and Human Services	To improve the measurement of food security for individuals as part of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which collects data on diet, food consumption, and health status.	\$125,000

Table 3
FANRP Extramural Research Studies: Fiscal 1998

Research Projects/Award	Objective	Estimated Cost
<i>Welfare Reform</i>		
Family Child Care Homes Legislative Change Study <i>(Congressionally Mandated)</i> Abt Associates	Report to Congress on the effects of the new tiered meal reimbursements for family child care homes participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) on sponsoring organizations, participating and dropout homes, and children.	\$1,959,007
Report to Congress on State Use of Funds To Increase Work Slots for Food Stamp Recipients <i>(Congressionally Mandated)</i> Health System Research	Report to Congress on the implications of the increased size of the Food Stamp Employment and Training (E&T) Program on participants, especially on unemployed able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) and descriptions of how States use E&T funds and recent changes in participation.	\$291,609
Report to Congress on Use of Food Stamps To Purchase Dietary Supplements <i>(Congressionally Mandated)</i> Life Sciences Research Organization	Report to Congress assessing the state of scientific knowledge regarding the potential value of vitamin and mineral supplements in filling nutrient gaps and the comparative impact of vitamin and mineral supplements, improved diets, and the intake of fortified foods on health status and health care costs.	\$120,250
Expanded Study of Welfare Reform on Immigrants Department of Health and Human Services	Determine the economic, social, nutritional, and health effects of changes in food stamp eligibility and other aspects of welfare reform on immigrants, their households, and communities. Interviews of households that were in the Urban Institute's National Survey of American Families will provide longitudinal information and a check on retrospective information on food stamp receipt, food security, and their relationship to economic, social, nutritional, and health outcomes.	\$300,000
Food Program Targeting and Delivery Mathematica Policy Research, University of Michigan, Urban Institute	To evaluate the success of USDA's food assistance programs at servicing needy, at-risk populations, including examination of food program gaps and overlays, characteristics of food assistance recipients after welfare reform, behavior of low-income households, and urban-rural delivery.	\$677,000

Fiscal 1998**Research Projects/Award****Objective****Estimated Cost**

<p>Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) – Leavers Use of Food Stamps Department of Health and Human Services</p>	<p>Determine the status of TANF recipients after they leave the TANF caseload, eligible families who are diverted before being enrolled in TANF, or eligible families who fail to enroll in TANF. The analysis will include former recipients/eligibles participating in the Food Stamp Program and the role that food stamps play in their overall wellbeing with particular focus on former recipients/eligibles that reside in nonmetropolitan areas. The analysis will address individuals’ ability to obtain employment and the support provided by their earnings, public programs besides TANF and food stamps, and other programs.</p>	<p>\$250,000</p>
<p>Studies of Households Who Leave the Food Stamp Program Abt Associates, Mathematica Policy Research, Iowa State University, and South Carolina Social Services</p>	<p>Determine the status of households and individuals who leave the Food Stamp Program. Of particular interest are able-bodied adults between the ages of 18 and 50 without dependents, (ABAWDs) because the Food Stamp Program changes were the strictest for this group. The analysis will focus on individuals’ ability to obtain employment, the support provided by their earnings and other income sources, and support provided by public and/or private programs.</p>	<p>\$1,488,074</p>
<p>A Study of U.S. Emergency Food Assistance System: Provider and Recipient Characteristics Mathematica Policy Research</p>	<p>To develop an understanding, through a nationally representative sample, of the characteristics, operating structure, and service areas of food banks, food pantries, and emergency kitchens and to provide national estimates of the total number of recipients served and the total quantity and type of food by source. This study provides policymakers a better understanding of the resource base of food banks, food pantries, and emergency kitchens and the capacity of these providers to manage current and future changes in food demand and food resources.</p>	<p>\$1,493,061</p>
<p>Study of Re-engineering the Welfare System Health System Research</p>	<p>To study the extent and nature of States’ welfare administrative re-engineering efforts as they affect the Food Stamp Program administrative processes. These include changes associated with welfare reform that affect either the interaction between food stamp applicants and caseworkers or the efficiency or the integrity of the program. The focus of the study will be on those parts of the States’ administrative practices that are innovations to or departures from prior practices.</p>	<p>\$362,443</p>
<p>Research Linking Food Assistance Programs, Agriculture, Rural Areas, and the Economy Iowa State University, University of Oregon, and Mathematica Policy Research</p>	<p>To examine the linkages between food assistance programs and the general economy. In particular, to examine the characteristics of the welfare assistance packages being developed at the State level and assess the impact they may have on Federal food assistance program participation rates and expenditures.</p>	<p>\$672,399</p>

Fiscal 1998		
Research Projects/Award	Objective	Estimated Cost
Simplified Food Stamp Program Technical Assistance Mathematica Policy Research	To conduct microsimulations and related analyses of alternative State-level changes to program options in the Simplified Food Stamp Program. To evaluate the potential effects on program eligibility, participation, benefit levels, and costs.	\$88,389
<i>Food Security</i>		
Measuring Food Security: August 1998 Current Population Survey Supplement Census Bureau	To develop annual estimates of the prevalence of food security in the United States and to provide data for analysis of the determinants of and changes in the level of food security.	\$440,000
Early Childhood Longitudinal Study--Kindergarten Cohort (ECLS-K) Department of Education	To include USDA's food security module and other items in the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey-Kindergarten Cohort (ECLS-K), sponsored by the National Center for Educational Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. The project will provide descriptive data on children's status at entry into school, children's transition into school, participation in the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs, and children's progress through fifth grade--including data that allow for the examination of the relationship between food security/hunger, cognitive development and school performance.	\$500,000
Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) National Academy of Sciences	To improve the collection of longitudinal data on family composition, income, use of public assistance, food security, and factors associated with family self-sufficiency on the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID). To develop and modify survey questions to improve estimates of food expenditures, participation in food assistance programs, expenditures on major consumer goods and services, nutritional behavior, and the calculation of food stamp eligibility.	\$444,830
Research To Strengthen and Improve Measures of Food Security Iowa State University	To improve the measurement of food security and hunger at the household level by: (1) assessing changes in food security prevalence over time; (2) investigating alternative approaches for measuring food security items and classifying households into food security categories; and (3) developing and field-testing a set of questions for future modifications of the food security scale.	\$200,000

Fiscal 1998		
Research Projects/Award	Objective	Estimated Cost
<i>Nutrition and Health</i>		
Early Childhood Longitudinal Study--Birth Cohort 2000 (ECLS-B) Department of Education	To support enhanced data collection necessary to examine the link between WIC participation in infancy and childhood to cognitive development, obesity, and food security by adding a bank of questions to the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study--Birth Cohort (ECLS-BC), conducted by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Education. Added questions include information on WIC and other food assistance program participation, infant feeding practices, health care, height, weight, and related information.	\$200,000
Dietary and Nutrition Outcomes Harvard School of Public Health and Research Triangle Institute	To develop and evaluate dietary assessment tools for young children that can be used in WIC program centers, recognizing that adaptations may be needed for culturally diverse populations. The tools will serve several functions, including screening for dietary patterns that do not meet Federal dietary recommendations, facilitating the triage of patients for services, and serving as the basis for general nutrition education.	\$989,149
Research To Assess Links Between Diet Quality and Health Harvard School of Public Health	To analyze and improve our understanding of the relationship between diet quality and health status over time and to determine whether overall measures of diet quality such as the USDA Healthy Eating Index (HEI) predict the occurrence of adverse health outcomes (such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, or death).	\$100,000
Development and Evaluation of the Nutritional Anthropometric Assessment Software in WIC Clinics (Epi Info 2000/Nustat Module) Department of Health and Human Services	To support further development, pilot testing, and evaluation of the nutritional anthropometric software, NUSTAT, for implementation in clinic operations of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The software improvements will enhance the ability of WIC clinicians to properly assess height-for-age, weight-for-age, and weight-for-height for program participants relative to national population standards.	\$76,393
Research on Breast-fed Infants' Growth World Health Organization	To conduct research on optimal growth rates for breastfed infants. WIC program clinicians require appropriate infant growth charts to determine when, and if, breastfeeding should be supplemented with formula to support weight gain. Current infant growth charts are based predominately on formula-fed infants and, hence, may suggest faster weight gains than optimal, leading to unnecessary formula supplementation.	\$800,000

Fiscal 1998		
Research Projects/Award	Objective	Estimate Cost
<i>Program Integrity and Effectiveness</i>		
Assessment of Computer Matching in the Food Stamp Program Mathematica Policy Research	To examine how States are currently using or planning to use computer-matching strategies to reduce fraud and abuse in their food stamp and other assistance programs. By collecting and disseminating information on computer matching, this project will help States improve program integrity and support FNS oversight to ensure that States manage the FSP as efficiently as possible.	\$342,269
The Evaluation of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Customer Service Waivers on Recipients Abt Associates	To identify and estimate the occurrence of client service problems associated with EBT customer service waivers, and assess clients' response.	\$647,255
Nutrition and Health Outcomes of USDA Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs Abt Associates	To improve and expand understanding of the effects of USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs on food consumption, nutrient availability and intakes, dietary quality, nutritional status, and health outcomes.	\$526,358
WIC Supplemental Food Package Analysis Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, USDA	To review and assess how well the WIC food packages that are currently offered to pregnant and lactating women, infants, and children meet supplementation needs of the target populations.	\$76,000

Fiscal 1998**Research Projects/Award****Objective****Estimated Cost****Research Outreach****Small Grant Program**

To stimulate new and innovative research on food assistance programs and to broaden the participation of social science scholars in food assistance research. Five academic institutions and affiliated research institutes partnered with ERS in 1998 to administer the Small Grants Program. Each institution focuses on a particular facet of food assistance, such as diet and health outcomes, relationships to poverty and well-being, rural issues, and special at-risk population groups. The five institutions and areas of focus are:

\$1,190,851

- The Joint Center for Poverty Research, University of Chicago and Northwestern University funded proposals on interactions between food assistance and other welfare programs, and linkages between the macroeconomy and food assistance. (\$262,740)
- The Southern Rural Development Center at Mississippi State University to conduct food assistance research on rural people, families, and communities in the South. The Center also initiated a dialogue among scholars through the establishment of a Rural South Food Assistance Research Task Force, with the purpose of further articulating research priorities on food assistance-related issues. (\$222,000)
- The University of Arizona, American Indian Studies Program is working with scholars at tribal colleges and elsewhere to support research addressing the unique issues and problems of Native Americans with respect to food assistance. (\$246,224)
- The University of California at Davis, Department of Nutrition has awarded small grants for research on the impact of food assistance programs on nutritional risk indicators (anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, and dietary), food purchasing practices, and food insecurity. This program seeks to encourage examinations of multiple indicators of nutrition impact, and interdisciplinary approaches integrating epidemiology, economics, or anthropology with nutrition. (\$225,024)
- The Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin awarded research grants that address the effects of food assistance on individual and family well-being and food security. (\$234,834)

**Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC)
National Agricultural Library**

To provide support to the National Agricultural Library (NAL) in systematically storing and disseminating information on USDA's food assistance programs, nutrition education and related nutrition issues; and hosting a website and list server.

\$110,000**Second National Conference on Food Security
Measurement and Research
IQ Solutions**

To bring together experts on food security measurement—providing direction for future research needs and data collection, such as measurement of individual food security, and analyzing the refinement, validation, and use of the USDA/DHHS food security measurement scale.

\$100,000

Fiscal 1998		
Research Projects/Award	Objective	Estimated Cost
<i>Policy Research</i>		
WIC General Analysis Project (GAP) Food and Nutrition Service, USDA	To conduct research and analysis of the WIC Program to support program and policy decisions, including research on (1) estimates of WIC eligibility, (2) changes in WIC participant characteristics over time, and (3) nutrient, health risk, and demographic characteristics of WIC participants and eligible nonparticipants.	\$560,000
Food Stamp Program (FSP) Microsimulation and Related Analyses Food and Nutrition Service, USDA	To provide the simulations and related technical expertise needed to estimate the impact of proposed changes to the FSP. Other objectives include: maintaining and improving microsimulation capabilities, preparing databases, and conducting supporting research.	\$778,628
Child Nutrition Analytic Projects(CNAP) Food and Nutrition Service, USDA	To conduct research and analysis of USDA's child nutrition programs to support program and policy decisions, including research on (1) food and nutrient intake of school-age children, and (2) the contribution of child nutrition programs to food and nutrient intake.	\$460,000
The Extent of Trafficking in the Food Stamp Program After Welfare Reform Macro International	To update estimates of food stamp trafficking using current data and to provide longitudinal comparison of the prevalence of trafficking before and shortly after initial implementation of welfare reform.	\$199,921
<i>Enhanced Data Development</i>		
Continuing Survey of Food Intake by Individuals (CSFII) Agricultural Research Service, USDA	To improve estimates of low-income household food consumption in the United States by increasing the sample size of low-income individuals in the Continuing Survey of Food Intake by Individuals (CSFII) and developing and modifying survey questions related to food assistance programs.	\$1,250,000
National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES IV) Department of Health and Human Services	To collect data on diet, food consumption, and health status as part of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) by developing and modifying survey questions to improve the measurement of the relationship between diet and health for low-income individuals.	\$100,000
National Food Price and Sales Information System Food and Drug Administration	To purchase the most recent national data on food prices, quantities, comparable volumes, dollar sales, and promotion information at the product group, class, brand, and item levels. The data system includes information on vitamin and mineral supplements.	\$235,000